

MOUNTAINEER

G. S. L. CITY:
Tuesday Evening, November 13, 1860.
LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS.
BY PONY EXPRESS.
(From St. Joseph on the 8th.)
Considering the great interest taken in the Presidential election, we have hurriedly collated from our eastern dispatches received by Pony Express the following

THE MOUNTAINEER

G. S. L. CITY:
Saturday, 5 p.m., October 13, 1860.
LATEST NEWS.
BY PONY EXPRESS.

St. Joseph, Mo.,
Saturday evening, Oct. 6, 1860.

J. FENOLSON, Esq.:—
News for the last few weeks has been decidedly dull. The newspapers of the country contain scarcely anything but politics, politics! and we are getting heartily sick of it. However, as everything spoken of is political, I cannot refrain from giving you some items in that line.
Probably the hottest and most vigorously prosecuted campaign of any State, will be that of New York. A great monster meeting of the conservative men of the State, of all parties, opposed to Republicanism, met at Cooper's Institute, last week, with a view of forming one electoral ticket, composed of the Douglas, Breckinridge and Bell parties. The greatest harmony and good feeling prevailed. An electoral ticket, acceptable to all parties, and made according to the relative strength of each, was adopted. So far, the greatest enthusiasm prevails; and it is asserted on all hands that Lincoln will be beat in that State. Should Lincoln lose New York, his chance for the Presidency is slim, as the election would go to the House of Representatives, where in all probability Bell would get the election.

A similar effort is being made in Pennsylvania, with a prospect of success. Illinois, it is expected, will cast her vote for Douglas. A Union ticket, similar to New York, is being run in New Jersey. All the free States, with these exceptions, will go for Lincoln without doubt. The Cotton States will go for Breckinridge, while Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, and Missouri, will, owing to the divisions of the Democracy, go for Bell. Mark what I say.

The St. Louis Republic, of yesterday, says, in their financial article:—"It is difficult to keep out of the public prints allusions to rumors, now of several days standing, relative to the embarrassments of a heavy transportation firm engaged in the freighting business to Utah and Pike's Peak, and in the California Pony Express enterprise. The embarrassment is ascribed chiefly to the delay of payment upon claims held against the United States Treasury. A good deal of the discounted paper is in the shape of acceptances by Gen. Floyd, Secretary of War. We understand that negotiations are on foot to arrange for the extension of the paper of the house, and the belief is expressed that they will be successful."

A tremendous storm took place in New Orleans yesterday. Buildings were blown down, steamboats sunk, &c. Several lives were lost. The damage to property is estimated at \$300,000.
I send you a full and complete telegraphic summary. The foreign news is unusually interesting.

Gen Cialdini had defeated Lamoriciere, general of the Papal troops. The battle lasted six hours. Afterward the Pontifical army capitulated. Lamoriciere escaped to Ancona. Fears were expressed in Paris that a collision would take place in Rome between the French troops and Garibaldi's forces.

The London Herald's Paris correspondent is informed that a manifesto, by the Pope, announcing his determination to withdraw from Rome is already prepared.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Washington on Oct. 3. He was immediately introduced to Gen. Cass by Lord Lyons. President Buchanan was absent from the capital.

Gen. Sherman had defeated the rebels, and the battle of Atlanta was a complete success.

The rebels had been driven from the city of Atlanta, and the Union army was now in possession of the city.

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Nov. 23. tributed 4,000 museum, to sufferers, a case of Or-

Davidson's damages. Tuesday by the ing the finan-

universal appro- satisfied, and he are few.—

The closing 30 per cent, five to ten western and New York and

ment of the Times fers are to ex- his marauders

Harney pops, artillery, a Forts Bailey

Nov. 23. ed orders to directing him to hold himself in service on the

of Missouri of Montgomery

ling the military eaves St. Louis is afternoon, on tment, to assist

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Mo., state that ws had invaded ed near Tabor's reported that ill, in that coun-

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Warsaw, last Williams, the ven-

Kansas, made a He declared d large supplies

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it prevails in the smori from the at Montgomery the State, plan-

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THE PRICE of Governor of Geor- his late message State, gives utter-

threats: "Should I exercise the eeds from the s violation of the s or Government n to it. In such

citizens would each would be ion of her flag. And if any other ere, and assume and take the lives charge of treason owing the flag of late promptly, by a the highest tree such Government orgia, whose life taken.

partments under like circum-

ley, in his letter of confession to ary of the Interior, says no of a government had any compli- slightest knowledge of the fact ing abstracted the bonds, and s confined to the persons impli- heretofore named.

ndsmen of Bailey surrendered, and he is now in jail. As to quired of Russell, it having been take \$200,000 outside the jurisd- the court, Senator Green and atives Woodson and Barret, all s, have gone his security for d. The remaining \$300,000 is e up by seizures of Whislig-

OF REPRESENTATIVES.

War Department, Dec. 27, 1860.

much has been said very re- at the policy of this Depart- anting acceptances to contrac- transportation across the plains, it is due alike to Congress, the myself, to make a short, plain of the facts connected with the

ime in the year 1858, it became necessary to start large trains station across the plains to there was no available means e trains in motion. Accept-

given to contractors then to m to start, and they did so s thus begun continued a good necessity, and was afterwards

afford accommodation to con- their very large and extensive air purport is to give preference or when filed in the department, moneys due to contractors.

acceptances have, until the past sen to large amounts, nor has out whatever, until then, been means were not provided to deem them. There has never east concealment or mystery business. It was perfectly all who had any interest in

giving about it. They have only when there was a substi- out of which means to meet d certainly arise, and for the f which there was an existing on. They are prohibited by no

of these acceptances within rested upon the following con- Those given for the last sea- and which were held as colla- in different places, the con- are anxious to postpone until

They represented that this me with acceptances, which on presented that they would be the money called for was earned factors for next season's work. est assurances were given that was only to go, and certainly agreement already made, into

one of those banks and firms held unpaid acceptances, and ateval to their own obligations. ering under this contract for a will be more than enough to amount of acceptances predic- To insure this stipulation I

to issue paper only in large if at all, to those who knew d solvency of the contractors, ad already money engagements to a large amount, and who had, formed, and, as I believed, al- suited to and desired the ar-

promises and faithful engage- l been performed, no difficulty have resulted from the trans- could not and would not have received any one. No expecta- on it could by any possibility disappointed. But the prom- were not kept—were broken. r was, it seems, placed in the

the clerk of the Interior, who acted a large amount of securi- as to be the case, I have not o give an order to cancel and those acceptances. Their per- rendered them void and of no

attified to assert a confident be- o one connected in any way, motely, in any shape or form, lities of the War Department, e least connection with or know- his embezzlement, in its incep- progress.

ue of this paper resolves itself sion of administrative consider- s, I think; and so regarding it, purposed for advertising very

have by a long series of years honest and most efficient ser- the confidence and good feeling s having any connection with

ation for the army in the ag beyond our Western settle- ly had never failed in any of agments, and had executed s under circumstances of po- sessment. They were men of

health and most extensive sessed fully the confidence sient them. It has become

ident that but small pro- likely to be realized from s, and this was put into from the recent reverses in

The revolutions which re- ver the country have arisen s which business men could s upon to take the risk of,

NEWS.

Hook, Nov. 23. s, from Liverpool, ip, s formally accepted

his dictatorship Island home on the

They have been from political causes, and not from any violated law of commercial or monetary action. Under this evident fact, I was not unwilling to afford these employees of government any assistance likely to save them from serious injury growing out of political disturbances, if that could be done without running any risk of loss to government. I think such a course can derogate nothing from a sound administrative discretion, although the sequel has shown that such confidence has been misplaced.

But there is another and higher public consideration connected with the subject of contracts for transportation, and one which cannot be overlooked with any just appreciation of good administration. Good and thoroughly responsible contractors for transportation across our immense plains are extremely important persons to our little army, and difficult to obtain. There is no other service like it known in the world. Nowhere else on the globe would the idea be entertained of subsisting an army by transporting its supplies overland a distance of a thousand or twelve hundred miles, through an uninhabited wilderness; and yet a very large part of our army is furnished and subsisted by this means. If the present contractors, who have so long and so faithfully performed their work, should fail or become so embarrassed as to be unable to do their work and supply the army, it would result in the loss to the United States of a vast sum of money—probably a million dollars. But the pecuniary loss would be small in comparison with the risk and damage which such a failure would subject our troops to, who are stationed in the deserts of New Mexico and Arizona.

Should any accident befall these men, or any serious inconvenience result to them from the failure of a regular and certain transmission of supplies, it would be difficult to estimate the just indignation which would be heaped upon the head of the ignorant or delinquent officer whose inefficiency had allowed it. Trains necessary for the transportation, to be performed by Russell, Majors and Waddell, could not cost much short of a million dollars, and would require months of industry and activity to prepare. It would be very clear to any one that a wise forecast demands of the government to sustain these contractors by all fair and legitimate means.

I have now nearly brought my administration of the war department to a close, and I will be excused for advertising to it briefly. There is not one branch of the military service which is not in perfect order, as far as any means are afforded of knowing, and they are very complete. Some have been particularly encouraged, and I think improved; discipline is excellent, and the accountability to superior authority in every department could scarcely be excelled.

Strict economy is enforced, and perfect responsibility in all money expenditure is and has been successfully carried into effect. Within four years, since I have presided in this department, not a dollar, I believe, has been lost to the government by embezzlement or theft, and within that time sixty millions of dollars have been disbursed. No system of administration, no line of policy, I think, could reach better results; no system of accountability could be more perfect. These facts I confidently assert, and the department is everywhere full of the proofs of them. I invite any investigation which the House may think proper to institute into any or all of my official acts. Very respectfully your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD, Secretary of War.

Mr. Bocock moved that the communication be referred to the select committee appointed to investigate the matter of the abstraction of the Indian trust fund bonds.

Mr. Curtis opposed this course. Mr. Bocock said that Mr. Curtis could appear as a witness before that committee, and briefly contended that the communication should take that direction as the Secretary of War says he has been complicated to some extent as a party to the question before the committee.

Mr. Curtis denied that he had offered himself as a witness, and remarked that the Secretary of War had made a contract with Messrs. Russell, Majors & Co. without authority of law, to the prejudice of other parties.

Mr. Grow raised the point that the Secretary of War has no authority by law to communicate to the House at will.

Mr. Bocock said the question came too late. When a public officer believes himself falsely implicated in an improper transaction, he has a right to come here and ask an investigation.

The Speaker said it did not appear to him that, while it is made the duty of the President to transmit communications, the heads of the Department could not do so.

Mr. Clemens referred to the act of 1803 to show that it is expressly provided that the Secretary of War shall have no right to make communications in regard to contracts.

Mr. Grow did not consider that law to be applicable to the case.

The communication was referred to the select committee on the abstraction of the bonds.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, introduced a bill to further provide for the collection of duties on imports. Referred to the judiciary committee.

Mr. Hooper, of Utah, presented the memorial of the people of Utah praying admission into the Union. A State constitution accompanied the memorial.

Mr. Seward presented the memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce, asking the establishment of steam postal service between San Francisco and China. Referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

Mr. Seward also presented a memorial, signed by the most prominent citizens of New York City concerning the present state and future happiness of the Union. Mr. Seward got the floor to express his views on the President's Message.

Mr. Clark presented resolutions which he said he should offer as an amendment to the resolutions of the senator from Kentucky, Mr. Crittenden, when they came up as follows:—Resolved that the provisions of the Constitution are ample for the preservation of the Union and protection of all material interests of the country, that it needs to be obeyed rather than amended, and our release from our present difficulties is to be looked for

in the success of our present efforts to protect the public property and enforce the laws rather than in new guarantees for particular interests or compromise, or concessions. Resolved that all attempts to dissolve the Union or overthrow the Constitution, with the expectation of constructing a new one, are dangerous and illusory, and in the opinion of the Senate no reconstruction is practicable, and therefore to the maintenance of the existing Union and Constitution should be directed all the energies of the government. The resolutions were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hunter asked that the resolutions offered by him be made the special order for Friday. Mr. Yule presented a bill to adjust present difficulties between States, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Sidel presented a resolution of inquiry that the President inform the Senate whether Jno. B. Floyd at present fills the office of Secretary of War; if not, who fills the office; and if the appointment of acting or provisional secretary has been made, and when; and by what authority it was made, and why the fact of such appointment was not communicated to the Senate. Mr. Bigler presented sixty-five memorials from citizens of Pennsylvania, asking that the Crittenden resolutions be submitted to the people. Mr. Seward called for the reading of the President's message, and it was read. The railroad bill was then taken up. Mr. Wilkinson moved the bill be referred to a select committee. Mr. Gwin said he thought it would destroy the bill, if it were referred to a committee. Mr. Latham entered his protest against any reference of the bill. Mr. Rice said it was evident that the friends of the bill wanted to pass it without giving the north-west a show. He moved its indefinite postponement. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. Mr. Lane said this was not the time to pass such a bill. He thought it was better to say to the South that their rights should be protected. He (Lane) did not believe the railroad would restore peace. Adjourned.

IMPORTANT FROM CHARLES- TON.

Star of the West was fired upon and driven back to sea. Fort Sumpter silent. Charleston, Jan. 9.

The steamer Star of the West, in endeavoring to enter our harbor about daylight this morning, was opened upon by the garrison on Morris Island, and also by Fort Moultrie. The steamer put about and went to sea. I have not been able to learn whether the steamer or any person on board was injured. The belief is that no injury was sustained. Fort Sumpter did not respond. Lieut. Hall, of Fort Sumpter, came over to the city about 11 o'clock, with a flag of truce. He repaired to the quarters of the Governor, followed by a crowd of citizens. He was in secret conference with the Governor and Council for two hours. At 2 o'clock he was sent in a carriage with the Governor's aide to the wharf, and returned to Fort Sumpter. The object of his mission is not known; it is not supposed that it relates to the firing on the Star of the West. The people are greatly excited. There were no demonstrations against Lieut. Hall, although great curiosity to know what he came for.

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